

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 9, 13, and 16 as follows:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A lighting unit comprising:

a light-reflecting reflector;

a plurality of cold-cathode tubes disposed inside the reflector; and

an optical ~~connected with the~~an open end of the reflector to guide the light

emitted by the cold-cathode tubes;

wherein the reflector has a reflective surface that reflects the light having been emitted by the cold-cathode tubes in the direction nearly perpendicular to the wall of each tube, in the direction in which the light thus reflected does not re-enter the cold-cathode tubes.

10. (Original) The lighting unit as claimed in claim 9, wherein the reflective surface is so disposed that the surface reflects the emitted light at an angle at which the reflected light runs through the space between the cold-cathode tube and the reflector adjacent thereto or between the neighboring cold-cathode tubes.

11. (Original) The lighting unit as claimed in claim 9, wherein the reflective surface is so disposed that the surface reflects the light emitted by one cold-cathode tube at an angle at which the reflected light runs through the space between the one cold-

cathode tube and the other cold-cathode tube and that the surface reflects the light emitted by the other cold-cathode tube at an angle at which the reflected light runs through the space between the one cold-cathode tube and the wall surface of the reflector.

12. (Original) The lighting unit as claimed in claim 9, wherein the reflective surface is composed of a plurality of curved segments.

13. (Currently Amended) A lighting unit comprising:  
a light-reflecting reflector;  
a cold-cathode tube disposed inside the reflector;  
a first optical waveguide connected with the open end of the reflector for guiding the light emitted by the cold-cathode tube; and  
a second optical waveguide disposed in the space between the cold-cathode tube and the reflector and having an end that faces the an end of the first optical waveguide,  
wherein a space is formed between the cold-cathode tube and the second optical waveguide.

14. (Original) The lighting unit as claimed in claim 13, wherein the profile of the surface of the second optical that faces the outer surface of the cold-cathode tube is analogous to the profile of the outer surface of the cold-cathode tube.

15. (Original) A lighting unit comprising:

a light source unit having a cold-cathode tube with a phosphor dispersed inside the tube, a housing that houses the cold-cathode tube and has a reflector formed on an inner surface, and a transparent filler filled in the housing; and

an optical guiding the light from the light source unit and emitting the light through a light-emitting surface.

16. (Currently Amended) A lighting unit comprising:

a light source unit having a cold-cathode tube, a housing that houses the cold-cathode tube and has a reflector formed on an inner surface, and a transparent filler filled in the housing;

an optical guiding the light from the light source unit and emitting the light through a light-emitting surface;

a temperature sensor for controlling the temperature of the cold-cathode tube;  
and

a heating element on the inner surface of the housing, for heating the cold-cathode tube.

17-54. (Cancelled)